

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12

/132 W

-----109920 200846Z /10

R 192136Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4966

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS USUN 2665

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: PORG, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI LETTER ON WITHDRAWAL FROM WORLD CONFERENCE FOR
ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID

UN SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED IN DOCUMENT A/32/166,
17 AUGUST 1977, FOLLOWING TEXT OF LETTER, DATED 16
AUGUST 1977, FROM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISREAL
ADDRESSED TO UN SECRETARY GENERAL REGARDING ISRAEL'S
DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS PARTICIPATION FROM WORLD
CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID, TO BE HELD AT
LAGOS FROM 22 TO 26 AUGUST 1977:

ON INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM
YOU THAT ISRAEL HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS PARTICIPATION FROM
THE WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID, TO BE
HELD AT LAGOS FROM 22 TO 26 AUGUST 1977.

ISRAEL'S DECISION STEMS PRINCIPALLY FROM THE REFUSAL OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID, THE ORGANIZER OF THE
CONFERENCE, TO AGREE TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE WORLD
JEWISH CONGRESS IN THE CONFERENCE AT LAGOS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT
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THE BODY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MAJOR AND MOST RESPECTED JEWISH
ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WORLD, HAS ENJOYED CONSULTATIVE STATUS
AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL SINCE 1947, AS WELL AS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDU-
CATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, THE INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR ORGANISATION, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE. AMONG ITS AINS IS A COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR

HUMAN RIGHTS GENERALLY. WHEN ITS APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THW WORLD CONFERENCE AT LAGOS WAS DECLINED, IT WAS NOT ADVISED OF THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE CRITERIA APPLIED IN GRANTING SOME REQUESTS FOR AN INVITATION AND REJECTING OTHERS.

BY WAY OF CONTRAST, THE ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE AGREED TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO), EVEN THOUGH THAT TERRORIST ORGANIZATION HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS RACIST ATTITUDES, AKIN TO THW WORST FORMS OF ANIT-SEMITISM, ARE WRITTEN INTO ITS SO-CALLED "NATIONAL COVENANT". MOREOVER, AT THE IN-SISTENCE OF THE PLO, THE "COMMITTEE FOR THE EXERCISE OF THE IN-ALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" HAS NOW BEEN INVITED TO LAGOS, EVEN THOUGH ITS MANDATE IS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THE CONFERENCE, AND IT WAS ORIGINALLY NOT INVITED FOR PRECISELY THAT REASON. IN ADDITION, IT IS NOW PATENTLY CLEAR FROM DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN RECENT MEETINGS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID THAT CERTAIN STATES PROPOSE TO ABUSE THE CONFERENCE AND TO CONVERT IT INTO YET ANOTHER PATFORM FOR THEIR UNREMITTINGPOLITICAL AND PROPAGANDA WARFARE AGAINST ISRAEL.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ISREAL HAS REACHED ITS DECISION ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AND WITH NO SMALL MEASURE OF RELUCTANCE, SINCE ITS OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID, AS ENUNICATED BY THE TEN FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL ON 7 OCTOBER 1976 BEFORE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, REMAINS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. HE SAID: "RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, IN ANY GUISE, INCLUDING APARTHEID. ARE ABHORRENT TO MY COUNTRY AND MY PEOPLE. THE BASIC TENETS OF JUDAISM ARE IRRECONCILABLE WITH ANY FORM OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL CANNOT PASS OVER IN SILENCE THE DECISION TO PRECLUDE THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS FROM THE LAGOS CONFERENCE. NOT ONLY IS THAT DECISION AN INSULT TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, BUT IT IS ALSO A BLATANT ACT OF DISCRIMINATION, IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE CNFERENCE ITSELF.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT HOST GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, ON ITS PART, HAS BEEN MOST CO-OPERATIVE IN PROVIDING ALL REQUISITE FACILITIES FOR ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CON-FERENCE.

ONCE AGAIN, A CONFERENCE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY TO AFRICA BUT TO ALL STATES IS UNDER THREAT OF EMASCULATION BY ARAB EX-TREMISTS FOR THEIR OWN PARTISAN PURPOSES. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL CAN NEITHER IGNORE SUCHBEHAVIOUR NOR LET IT BE IGNORED.

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REQUEST THAT THIS LETTER BE CIRCULATED
AS A DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER ITEM 27 OF THE PRO-
VISIONAL AGENDA.

(SIGNED) CHAIM HERZOG
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN02665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770301-0569
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770842/aaaabjau.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2fc68457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1542800
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI LETTER ON WITHDRAWAL FROM WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID UN SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED IN DOCUMENT A/32/166
TAGS: PORG, OCON, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2fc68457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009